

FAQs about the Second Street Utility Tunnel Repair Project

In summer 2008, the AOC will begin major repair work on the utility tunnel, which lies below Second Street, S.E., as part of its five-year Utility Tunnel Improvement Program. **The tunnel, which provides steam and chilled water to heat and cool facilities across the Capitol complex, is more than 50 years old and is reaching the end of its useful life.**

The following are Frequently Asked Questions regarding the Second Street Project that were discussed during a public meeting hosted by the AOC on January 16, 2008, at St. Peter's Catholic Church.

Q: What is the scope of work? What will the repair work involve?

A: The work will involve excavating Second Street from North Carolina Avenue to just past the intersection at C Street, S.E., in order to replace the utility tunnel's roof and ensure the structural integrity of the tunnel for another 50+ years. The street will be excavated from curb to curb one block at a time to minimize disruption and inconvenience to local residents.

Q: Will we still be able to use the sidewalks?

A: Pedestrian walkways will be maintained at all times. A solid, secure, eight-foot construction fence will line the perimeter of the project to ensure pedestrian safety.

Q: Will Providence Park be used for staging equipment or construction supplies.

A: The playing field in Providence Park will not be affected by the tunnel repair work. Two construction trailers will be located on the perimeter of the park between the tree line and sidewalk for staff to manage the project on-site, however the staging of equipment and supplies will be done off-site.

Q: Will the trees be protected or replaced if damaged?

A: The contractor doing the repair work will be required to provide tree protection. If the contractor damages a tree, they will be required to replace it.

Q: What are the hours of construction?

A: The project will follow the District's regulations and conduct work Monday through Friday from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. Little or no weekend work is planned. If weekend work is required, the AOC will provide advance notice to residents.

Q: How long will the project take?

A: The first phase of the project is scheduled for award in late spring 2008. Work will begin in summer 2008 and will take approximately 18-21 months from award to finish. As a separate project to be completed prior to the excavation work, any asbestos-containing materials will be completely and safely removed from the tunnel and disposed of in accordance with EPA regulations.

Q: How will the work impact local traffic?

A: The Tunnel Improvement Project Team is working with a traffic control engineer and the District's Department of Transportation to coordinate a traffic plan for the neighborhood. While excavation work is occurring, one block of Second Street at a time will be closed to traffic. One lane of traffic will always be maintained on C Street and D Street (cross streets).

When the traffic control plan is developed, the AOC will host another community meeting to provide more details to the residents and provide opportunity for further public comment.

Q: How will government services such as the fire and ambulance service and trash collection be affected? Will there be any disruption to our utilities?

A: The AOC has met with D.C. Fire and Rescue and they have developed a plan to ensure that emergency services will not be interrupted. Trash collection and other government services will also be maintained throughout the project work. No disruption to services is planned.

Q: Has the AOC coordinated this work with D.C. government?

A: The AOC has been working closely with the Advisory Neighborhood Commissions, Councilman Tommy Wells' office, and a number of D.C. agencies.

Q: Where can I find information about the project? Whom do I contact if there is a problem or concern?

A: Project updates will be posted on the AOC's Web site in the "Press Room," when applicable – <http://www.aoc.gov/aoc/press-room/index.cfm>. In addition, information will be shared with Councilmember Wells and the ANC and they will post it on their respective Web sites.

Contact Eva Malecki, AOC Communications Officer, at (202) 228-1793 with additional questions or concerns.